(a) whether a number of complaints have been received about malpractices and revenue leakage in ITDC duty free shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIAITON AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There have been some complaints about malpractices in ITDC Duty Free Shops. However, there are no complaints regarding revenue leakage.

(b) Five complaints regarding sale of imported liquor and other imported items to unauthorised persons, corruption, nepotism, etc. in Duty free shops at Delhi and Bombay Airports have been received in ITDC. Out of these five complaints, action has been taken/ is being taken by CBI in three cases, by Customs Authorities in one case, and by ITDC Management in one case.

(c) Strict controls are being enforced including surprise inspections and transfer of staff. Besides, billing and inventory systems are being computerised.

[*Translation*]

Sale of Tickets at Dullahpur Station

2967. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount realised from the sale of railway tickets at Dullahpur station on Varanasi Bhatni rail line during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) whether there has been decline in the sale of railway tickets at this station during 1990-91; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to check this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Total amount realised from sale of tickets at Dullahpur station during 1988-89 and 1989-90 was Rs. 34.45 lakhs and Rs. 40.81 lakhs, respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Fall in earnings in 1990-91 was due to disruption in regular train services on account of gauge conversion work and public agitation for long periods. Some cases of ticketless travelling were also noticed. Ticket checking is being intensified to check these losses.

[*English*]

Imposition of Pollution Fee

2968. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose pollution fee/cess on all sources of effluent discharge in proportion to the estimated damage caused to the environment; and

(b) if so, the broad features of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1991 has been passed by the Lok Sabha. This provides for increased cess rates on industries consuming water and which discharge untreated effluent, whereas industries with treated effluent are given rebate on cess. This is to encourage industry to install water pollution abatement facilities, as well as to conserve a scarce and valuable natural resource, namely fress water.